

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Earl Alexander CULHAM  
Serial no. :  
Filed :  
For : METHOD OF LINKING WEB PAGES  
Group Art Unit :  
Examiner :  
Docket : THOLAM P167US

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

By way of preliminary amendment, please amend the above identified application as set forth below.

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-69 , without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, in favor of new claims 70-138 as follows.

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70. (NEW) A method of linking web pages, comprising the step of:  
associating at least one supplementary link with a primary web page;  
providing means by which at least one supplementary link becomes accessible to the user to enable the user to access at least one secondary web page.

71. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 70, at least one supplementary link being stored in a datastructure that is separate from the primary web page.

72. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 71, the datastructure being associated with the primary web page.

73. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 70, at least one supplementary link is hidden and becomes accessible to the user through a user initiated command.

74. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 73, the user initiated command being given through a single HTML tag on the primary web page.

75. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 73, the user initiated command being a keystroke command code.

76. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 73, the user initiated command being through an icon.

77. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 70, by which at least one supplementary link becomes accessible to the user is a browser search option which automatically makes at least one supplementary link accessible to the user immediately upon the user accessing the primary web page.

78. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 76, the icon being on a browser's tool bar.

79. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 70, including a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary link to the primary web page.

80. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 79, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new

supplementary link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

81. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 70, further including means for searching for supplementary links within a specified proximity to a cursor.

82. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 70, further including a search engine that searches for supplementary links that meet specified search criterion.

83. (NEW) The method of linking web pages, comprising the step of:

associating at least one supplementary link with a primary web page, at least one supplementary link being stored in a datastructure that is separate from content of the primary web page, at least one supplementary link providing access to at least one secondary web page.

84. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 83, at least one supplementary link being hidden to a user when the primary web page is active, until selectively accessed by a user.

85. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 83, the datastructure containing several supplementary links associated with the primary web page.

86. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 84, at least one supplementary hidden link becoming accessible to the user is through a user initiated command.

87. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 86, the user initiated command being given through a single HTML tag on the primary web page.

88. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 86, the user initiated command being a keystroke command code.

89. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 86, the user initiated command being through an icon.

90. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 86, at least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the user is a browser search option which automatically makes at least one hidden link accessible to the user immediately upon the user accessing the primary web page.

91. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 89, the icon being on a browser's tool bar.

92. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 84, including a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary link to the primary web page.

93. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 92, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new supplementary link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

94. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 83, further including ways for searching for hidden supplementary links within a specified proximity to a cursor.

95. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 83, further including a search engine that searches for hidden supplementary links that meet specified search criterion.

96. (NEW) The method of linking web pages, comprising the step of:

providing a primary web page with a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new link to the primary web page.

97. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 96, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new link to the primary web page, the addition of the new link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

98. (NEW) A method of linking web pages, comprising the step of:

associating several supplementary hidden links with a primary web page, the supplementary hidden links being stored in a datastructure that is separate from content of the primary web page;

providing a user initiated command by way of which the supplementary hidden links becomes accessible to the user to enable the user to access selected secondary web pages.

providing a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary hidden link to the primary web page, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new supplementary hidden link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary hidden link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

99. (NEW) A web page link, comprising:

at least one supplementary hidden link associated with a primary web page; and  
way by which the at least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the user to enable the user to access at least on secondary web page.

100. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 99, wherein at least one supplementary hidden link is stored in a datastructure that is separate from the primary web page.

101. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 99, wherein the datastructure contains several supplementary hidden links associated with the primary web page.

102. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 99, wherein the way by which the at least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the user is through a user initiated command.

103. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 102, wherein the user initiated command is given through a single HTML tag on the primary web page.

104. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 102, wherein the user initiated command is a keystroke command code.

105. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 102, wherein the user initiated command is through an icon.

106. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 99, wherein the way by which at least one hidden link becomes accessible to the user is a browser search option which automatically makes the at least one supplementary hidden link accessible to the user immediately upon the user accessing the primary web page.

107. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 105, wherein the icon is on a browser's tool bar.

108. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 99, wherein a request for linking application process is provided whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary hidden link to the primary web page.

109. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 108, wherein the request for linking application process includes a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new supplementary hidden link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary hidden link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

110. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 99, wherein ways are provided for searching for hidden supplementary links within a specified proximity to a cursor.

111. (NEW) The web page defined in claim 99, wherein a search engine is provided that searches for hidden supplementary links that meet specified search criterion.

112. (NEW) A web page link, comprising:

at least one supplementary link with a primary web page, at least one supplementary link being stored in a datastructure that is separate from content of the primary web page, the at least one supplementary link providing access to at least one secondary web page.

113. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 112, wherein at least one supplementary link is hidden to a user when the primary web page is active, until selectively accessed by a user.

114. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 112, wherein the datastructure contains several supplementary links associated with the primary web page.

115. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 113, wherein at least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the user through a user initiated command.

116. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 115, wherein the user initiated command is given through a single HTML tag on the primary web page.

117. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 115, wherein the user initiated command is a keystroke command code.

118. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 115, wherein the user initiated command is through an icon.

119. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 112, wherein the at least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the user as a browser search option which automatically makes the at least one hidden link accessible to the user immediately upon the user accessing the primary web page.

120. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 118, the icon being on a browser's tool bar.

121. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 112, wherein a request for linking application process is provided whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary link to the primary web page.

122. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 112, wherein the request for linking application process includes a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new supplementary link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

123. (NEW) A web page link, comprising:

a primary web page with a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new link to the primary web page.

124. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 123, wherein the request for linking application process includes a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new link to the primary web page, the addition of the new link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

125. (NEW) A web page link, comprising:

several supplementary hidden links associated with a primary web page, the supplementary hidden links being stored in a datastructure that is separate from content of the primary web page;

a user initiated command by which the at supplementary hidden links becomes accessible to the user to enable the user to access selected secondary web pages;

a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary hidden link to the primary web page, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new supplementary hidden link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary hidden link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.



126. (NEW) A web page link, comprising:  
at least one supplementary link associated with a primary web page; and  
way by which the at least one supplementary link becomes accessible to the user  
to enable the user to access at least one secondary web page.

127. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 126, wherein at least one  
supplementary link becomes accessible to the user through a user initiated command.

128. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 127, wherein the user initiated  
command comprises one of a keystroke and pointer command.

129. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 127, wherein the user initiated  
command is initiated through an X-ray cursor.

130. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 127, wherein at least one  
supplementary hidden link is embedded in an HTML file.

131. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 127, wherein the association between  
at least one supplementary link and the primary web page is explicitly reflected as content on  
the primary web page.

132. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 127, wherein the association between  
at least one supplementary link and the primary web page is implicitly derived from a selected  
attribute of the primary web page.

133. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 127, wherein multiple supplementary  
links are provided with each supplementary link being linked to a point on the primary web page.

134. (NEW) The web page link as defined in claim 127, wherein multiple supplementary  
are linked to individual points on the primary web page.

135. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 70, the association between at least one  
supplementary link and the primary web page being explicitly reflected as content on the primary  
web page.

136. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 70, the association between at least one supplementary link and the primary web page being implicitly derived from a selected attribute of the primary web page.

137. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 70, having multiple supplementary links, with each supplementary link being linked to a point on the primary web page.

138. (NEW) The method as defined in claim 70, multiple supplementary links being linked to individual points on the primary web page.

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## REMARKS

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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